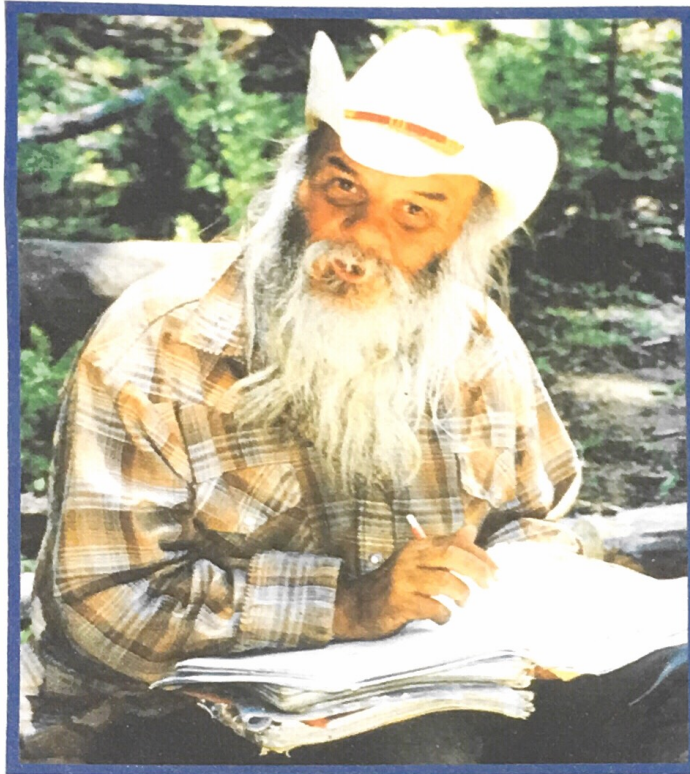




Rainbow Family

Life Stories



*by Jodey Bateman.
Interviews with Rainbow
Family of Living Light
folks conducted between
1977 and 2008.*

*Scanned in 2018.
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TRUTH AND LIFE - "Mormonism and
Rainbow"

These brothers were
interviewed in the Arizona Gathering
in 1998

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Truth and Life Mormonism and Rainbow

[Truth and Life are brothers. I met them at the national gathering in Arizona in 1998. Like most adolescent Mormon males, they held the Aaronic priesthood.]

TRUTH

I was born in 1980. My parents have been coming to the gathering since 1978. My first gathering was in 1982. I can't remember it. We went to a lot more, then we stopped going for a while. We started again at the Nevada gathering in 1989. I remember that it was a hard walk in - one of the hardest walks I've ever done. There was cliffs and stuff.

I'm not in contact with my father. My mom's done a good job of raising me without a father, but I think it's better if you have a mother and a father both. My mom, she's a crafts person/homemaker. She started making moccasins, but now she does bags, baskets, rope sandals, all kinds of stuff. Every summer we travel. We lived in a bus for a couple of years. We've lived in a tipi. Sometimes we rented houses because it's too cold. We've lived in Florida and Montana. We've been to a lot of regionals and as many nationals as we can get to.

I go to the Mormon church. We lived on a reservation before we became Mormon. I was baptized Mormon four years ago. Until then we went to Native American ceremonies. Then some Mormon missionaries came and talked to us and we liked it. Mormons don't approve of drugs, but as far as a peace gathering, they'd be for it. I'm a priest in the Aaronic priesthood. I'm gonna go on a mission for the Mormons.

My mom doesn't go to church much. She's kind of a Jack Mormon. She doesn't like some of the Mormon teachings.

⑦

I like that polygamy will be reinstated during the millennium. That's like a heavy doctrine. When you join the Mormon church, they don't tell you all the doctrines at first. They tell you later on. My mom thinks Joseph Smith, the Mormon prophet, was just a skirt-chaser.

Sometimes I start doubting some of the doctrines, but I think I can keep my testimony on most of them. Mormons are really conservative. Mormonism and Rainbow don't mesh together too well. I go back and forth. I see a lot of good things coming out of Rainbow, but then I like a lot of things that the Mormons do. I like the emphasis on the family that Mormons have. I have my own little combination of Mormonism and Rainbow. I have smoked marijuana, but I don't any more. I'm not against it, but I think most people abuse it - they overuse it.

The last few years I've been living with a Mormon family on a farm in Florida. They're real conservative. My mom lives in Montana. Right now I'm visiting my mom and we're at the gathering.

I'm thinking I want to be an engineer, but I want it to be something that would benefit the world like an environmental engineer. It's hard to find a job where you can make money and do good. I want a job that does good environmentally, where you don't have to step in people's faces. I'm kind of open to suggestions as to what path I'd like to take. I want to make a difference in the world for the better.

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LIFE

I was born in 1982. I've been coming to the gatherings since I was little. I live with my mother and my brother lives in Florida. I don't miss as much having a father as I did.

I was a deacon when I first joined the Mormon church. I have the Aaronic priesthood. My mother stopped going to the Mormon church so I kind of died off from it. I think I'll start going to it again when I move to Florida with my mother and my two little sisters and my little brother.

I think it's easier for the Mormon church to ignore the gathering than to have an opinion of it. If we did tell the church about the gathering, they might get judgmental. So if we tell Mormon friends, we usually tell them we're going camping, which is not a lie, but we don't tell them we're going to a Rainbow Gathering.

I've smoked marijuana four times. I'm not a big fan of it. I ate a marijuana cookie and that's the biggest trip I had.

I want to be a juggler. I juggle now, which is one of the main reasons I come to the gatherings. I also come to meet old friends.

My whole life for 12 years, I was between vegetarian, fruititarian and vegan, but since we travel around it's getting harder and harder. Like we won't buy meat in a store, but if we hit a deer with the bus we'll eat it. My first meat was when I shot a squirrel and my mother said if I killed him, I had to eat him and ever since then I've shot squirrels and eaten them. My idea on meat is that if you kill something, you should eat it.

I enjoy the gatherings very much. I'm glad I started coming to them when I was little.